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Book Reviews

Roman Life and Manners under the Early Empire. By LUDWIG FRIEDLÄNDER. Authorized Translation of the Seventh Enlarged and Revised Edition of the *Sittengeschichte Roms.* Vol. I, Translated by LEONARD A. MAGNUS; Vol. II, by J. H. FREESE AND LEONARD A. MAGNUS; Vol. III, by J. H. FREESE. London: George Routledge and Sons; New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1909. Pp. xxviii+428; xvii+365; xi+324. $1.50 per vol.

The seventh (popular) edition of Friedländer's well-known work differs from the sixth chiefly in the omission of the notes and excursuses. While the topics treated are of interest to the general reader, yet their appeal is especially to classical students, and the publishers have wisely decided to issue a fourth and final volume containing a translation of the notes and excursuses by Mr. Freese.

The excellence of Friedländer's book has long been recognized. His collection of material on each of the subjects discussed is large, and his presentation is lucid, picturesque, plausible, and in the highest degree interesting. If in his portrayal of Roman society he has sometimes drawn too general inferences from the statements of individual authors or classes of authors (e.g., the satirists), his practice of citing the passages upon which he bases his conclusions minimizes this defect, and the running conspectus of authorities (as given in the sixth edition) furnishes the reader with all the material that is necessary for a just appraisement of his views. Since its first appearance the book has been a standard work of reference for makers of commentaries, compilers of dictionaries of antiquities, authors of essays and papers on the various aspects of Roman life, and lecturers on private antiquities. A good translation would have been of the greatest service to classical students who do not read German, and on account of the fact that teachers in schools and colleges are paying more and more attention to the social conditions of the periods to which the authors they are studying belong, it would have had a large sale. Unfortunately, however, this translation is not a good one. It shows defects and in many cases—especially in the first volume—errors which necessitate the greatest wariness on the part of the reader. The three essential qualifications for the translation of such work as this are knowledge of German, facility and precision in the use of English, and a reasonable familiarity with Roman antiquities. The translator of the first volume has none of these. The German original is frequently mistranslated; Friedländer's flowing periods degenerate into lumbering complexes of misbegotten English of ambiguous concatenation and grotesque structure; and in more than one passage the translator is apparently not familiar with the nature of the object or institution described.

The infelicities in English constitute the most noticeable defect. The statement (p. 2) that "Augustus' Rome was a city grown up anyhow" suggests too forcibly the fortuitous origin and development of Topsy to convey an adequately impressive picture of the imperial city at any stage of its history. The use of the form "were" in the conclusion of conditional sentences (p. 4) shows a more rigid adherence to the sequence of tenses than is generally considered desirable by English stylists: "if one were to add to the extent and compass of Rome the height of the houses . . . . no city in the world *were* so great." When on p. 218 we are told that "there in front of the statues of their august sires, the descendants gambled all night long and went to bed, when their fathers' trumpets sounded the réveille," we cannot but feel thankful that these degenerate descendants were still sufficiently susceptible to the prompting of filial piety to obey that ghostly signal. The beginning of the story on p. 284, that a certain officer of the third legion "fell on" some robbers, beguiles us to visualize a spirited and aggressive attack on the part of the officer, and it is only in the course of the subsequent narration that it transpires that our translator meant "fell among" robbers. Other doubtful forms of expression occur: p. 31, "*cheapening* of prices"; p. 32, "the fact cannot be *suspect*"; p. 34, "the State departments were distant *ambitions*"; p. 35, "the perfect *easternizing* of the Roman Court"; p. 36, "in this sketch of a loathing pen," as a translation for *abgesehn davon dass hier die Farben stark aufgetragen sind.* On p. 76 unlucky Nero is charged with still another eccentricity, for we are told that he "*bestrewed* his friends with gifts"; on p. 207 the translation, "a Greek philosopher in a rough cloak and long beard," is perilously like Dickens' "in tears and a sedan chair"; on p. 210, we read "they found these occupations very *consumptive* of time"; p. 219, "Claudius *adored* dice" approaches the hysterical hyperbole of the matinée girl; *ibid.*, "Rome was every minute better informed of its own doings and *thinkings*"; p. 268, "broad enough for two carriages to pass *at breast*"; and p. 398, "Italian landscape was developed to an equal weight with the figure."

On p. 1 it is apparently the basilicas in the Forum that are referred to as "a row of stone *markets*." While we can hardly doubt that the translator is aware of the fact that the reference on p. 5 is to the "Capitoline plan" of Rome and that the material was marble, the words "the *torn* fragments of the plan of the *Capitoline city*" are certainly misleading. Slaves offered for sale were not always "cheap" (p. 37). *Geflissentlich* does not mean "officiously" (p. 38); *zweirädrigen Wagen* are not necessarily "two-horsed carriages" (p. 271); and on p. 270, in the paraphrase of Tertullian's picture of universal peace—"the lambs have driven away the wolves"—we are confronted by a specific perversion of natural conditions hardly justified by Friedländer's *Heerden haben die wilden Thiere verdrängt.*

The second volume is less open to criticism, yet some defects of the same kind occur: p. 1, "Caligula was *beloved by the folly* of the populace." The perusal of the sentence (p. 13) " . . . . jugglers, one of whom hovered in mid-air whilst the other jumped to the ground from a scaffolding, leaping through

air, soaring like dolphins in space, unfeathered birds" leaves us somewhat in the air in regard to the "unfeathered birds" until we turn to the original and find *die gleich Delphinen sich durch den leeren Raum bewegen, ohne Federn fliegen und in der Luft scherzen.* On p. 19 we are told that "there was a *view on to* the circus from the upper stories." The detailed description of the circus itself (p. 20) is earnestly commended to all students of Roman topography: "The Circus was surrounded by a *one-story edifice* with staircases and entrances, affording easy access and exits for thousands at once; containing in its *cellars* shops and conveniences, and above the *owner's* residence; of three *cellars* two served as the entrance. This low block of buildings was always lively and seldom proper." We cannot refrain from adding that if the aforesaid low block of buildings was in any respect more lively than the imagination displayed in this description, it must without question have been the very center of Roman impropriety. The statement on p. 187 that "blocks of marble . . . . floated up the river" should be supplemented by some information in regard to the expiatory ceremonies that doubtless attended so astounding a prodigy.

The third volume is distinctly better. We still find such expressions as "the extraordinary care taken by booksellers in the *get-up* of his works" (p. 4), "grammarians had above all to be *strong on* Ennius" (p. 8); but on the whole the translation shows improvement. Some sections maintain a high average. We hope that the publishers will have the book revised at an early date and so carry out their purpose of making accessible to English readers one of the most valuable works of its kind.

G. J. LAING

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Addresses and Essays. By MORRIS H. MORGAN, Professor of Classical Philology in Harvard University. New York: American Book Co., 1910. Pp. 275. $1.50 net.

This volume by the late Professor Morgan appeared, as the publishers inform us, just two days before his death on March 16, and it forms a fitting memorial of his accurate scholarship and strong personality. As an inspiring teacher of wide and varied learning he had few peers in this country, and his early death is a serious blow to American scholarship.

The contents of the book are of a very miscellaneous character, quickly passing "from grave to gay" and as quickly again "from lively to severe." The essays, with a single exception, have already appeared in print at various times during the past seventeen years.

The first essay, "The Student of the Classics," is a practical talk to college students. Emphasis is laid upon the need of broad training before specializing in a narrow field. The student should early form the habit of wide reading outside the college course and should practice rapid reading of whole authors in order to become as intimate with them as possible. It is pointed out that the